

of the time allowed for the extended questioning of witnesses, and in the determination of which witnesses may be subjected to such extended questioning.

I hope this will help to further clarify the rule's intent for any questions directed to your office, and for the purposes of any committee rules or motions developed to implement this rule.

Sincerely,

GERALD B.H. SOLOMON,
Chairman.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SARA AND SIMHA LAINER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sara and Simha Lainer, close friends of mine for more than 40 years and people passionately dedicated to the welfare of the Jewish community of Los Angeles. This year the couple are receiving the Lifetime Humanitarian Achievement Award from the West Coast Friends of Bar-Ilan University in Israel. I cannot think of two more deserving recipients.

Sara Lainer, a distinguished author of scholarly articles, has been an active volunteer on behalf of Hadassah, Pioneer Women, General Israel Orphans Home, the Yiddish Culture Club, and many other organizations. She continues to lecture in Hebrew and Yiddish to groups in Los Angeles, and she holds an honorary doctorate from the Hebrew Theological College, Jewish University of America. Her commitment to the intellectual and spiritual components of Judaism is extraordinary.

Simha Lainer, who ran a successful real estate business in the San Fernando Valley, is a strong supporter of, and a dedicated volunteer with, the University of Judaism, the Jewish Community Foundation, the ADL, and West Coast Friends of the Hebrew University. Anyone who cares about the Jewish community of Los Angeles owes a huge thanks to him.

In 1989, the Lainers established the Simha and Sara Lainer Fund for Jewish Education, which has thus far awarded \$290,000 in scholarships to 400 children around the city. I can think of nothing more important than ensuring Judaism remains vibrant and alive in Los Angeles.

Simha and Sara raised three sons, Mark, Nahum, and Luis, who have followed in the tradition of their parents in working hard on behalf of their community. I am indeed lucky to be good friends with all three, as well as their wives, Ellie, Alice, and Lee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Sara and Simha Lainer, whose tireless efforts to make this a better world inspire us all.

HONORING THE ROTARY GREATER MIAMI URBAN PEACE CON- FERENCE

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on February 8, 1997, the Rotary Clubs of Dade

County will sponsor the Greater Miami Urban Peace Conference at the Wolfson Campus of Miami-Dade Community College.

Inspired by Rotary International President Luis Giay, the conference will focus on solutions to the problems of youth and violence. Rotary seeks to identify effective programs which demonstrate results, but which could benefit from additional assistance to reach their full potential. Rotary's purpose is to go beyond merely examining problems. They want to connect hundreds of Dade County Rotary volunteers with projects to stem youth violence.

I commend the work of Rotary to constructively address a matter of growing local and national concern. It is easy to rush toward punitive measures before providing positive role models to those most in need. Rotary is assembling forces who have the ability to provide real solutions to a very real challenge. I am sure that my colleagues will join me recognizing the Dade County Rotary Clubs for their endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ISABEL MÉNDEZ

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Puerto Rican woman, Mrs. Isabel Méndez, who has dedicated her life to taking care of others, especially Hispanics in New York City.

Mrs. Méndez was honored by the House of Puerto Rican Cultural Heritage, known as "La Casa de la Herencia Cultural Puertorriqueña," on January 11 in New York City for her long-time commitment to the advancement of the Hispanic community.

She was born in Yabucoa, Puerto Rico. In 1926, at the age of 17, she came to New York City. Since her arrival, she has fought every day to improve the living conditions of Hispanics and has helped them overcome the difficulties that are a part of the experience of immigrating to a new land.

In 1932, Mrs. Méndez was instrumental in founding the first Hispanic Catholic Church, "La Milagrosa Church," in El Barrio, east Harlem. Together with her husband, Tony Mendez, who was the first Puerto Rican male district leader of the Democratic Party, she fought tirelessly for the welfare of Hispanics in the city.

In 1950, she founded the Puerto Rican Association of Women Voters, which is still in existence. Through this organization she assisted in furthering the advancement of Puerto Rican women. Mrs. Méndez also served as an interpreter for 24 years, first as a volunteer and later on as an employee, at the New York City civil court.

Through her community activism, she has helped to ease the road for those who have come after and who have embraced New York City as their new home. She is the widow of Tony Méndez and the mother-in-law of State Senator Olga A. Méndez.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Isabel Méndez for her devotion to our community and for making all of us Puerto Ricans and fellow Americans proud.

THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION IN AMERICA

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, let me commend to you the following article from an editorial in the Post Star newspaper in Glen Falls, NY. This article succinctly expresses my reasons for calling for the abolishment of the U.S. Education Department. While this Department was created with a noble eye toward protecting and advancing public education in this country, in reality it has only created dubious Federal mandates while siphoning scarce Federal dollars away from the students that truly need it. By creating an Office of Education to continue to represent public school interests and allowing more parental involvement, students will ultimately be much better served.

[From the Post Star, Glen Falls, NY]

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NEEDS TO BE
DISMANTLED

If you wonder what big idea Bill Clinton intends to ride into history, consider this one: Education.

Everybody agrees education is a wonderful thing, but increasingly, Americans fret about the quality of public schooling. The issue of instructional quality has split the educational establishment. On one side stand votaries of the National Education Association, which has worked long and hard to define mediocrity down. On the other are devotees of educational choice and home schooling, programs designed to spare kids the travail of politically correct education.

Enter President Clinton, promising to bridge the chasm. In a recent speech to the Democratic Leadership Council, he echoed Americans' apprehensions about the state of education: "We must dramatically reform our public schools, demanding high standards and accountability from every teacher and every student, promoting reforms like public choice, school choice and charter schools in every state."

At the same time, he staked out new ground for Uncle Sam: "I am not for federal government national standards. But I am for national standards of excellence and a means of measuring it so we know what our children are learning."

Here is Bill Clinton doing what he does best: bending a conservative issue to liberal ends. He has made it clear in subsequent talks that he wants to defend teachers unions, while creating a larger federal role in determining what students should and shouldn't learn.

That's not an encouraging sign, given recent trends in government-sponsored instruction. As Lynne Cheney has noted to devastating effect, school textbooks today subject students to politically correct nonsense. Some standard history books, for instance, mention Harriet Tubman more often than George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Robert E. Lee combined!

Meanwhile, self-esteem programs assure students that accuracy isn't everything in mathematics: If you come close, that's good enough. (Tell that to the Internal Revenue Service.)

The President's case for standards rests on the beguiling but dubious notion that experts know enough to set "proper" standards. There are no data to support that claim, and considerable evidence that schools tend to thrive in direct proportion to parental involvement in school. In other words, mother and father know best.